

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 144341

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APPROVED BY EB/CBA/BP - MR. WINTER

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EUR/TUR - BHIRSHORN (SUBSTANCE)

COMMERCE - J. LIGHTMAN (SUB)

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P 032214Z JUL 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EIND, TU

SUBJECT: FILMS - POSSIBLE SALE OF U.S. FIRMS' SOUND TRACKS
AND FILMS

1. GRIFFITH JOHNSON, EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT, MOTION PICTURE EXPORT ASSOCIATION (MPEAA) INFORMED DEPARTMENT JULY 3 THAT SUMER BANK IS PREPARING TO SELL SOUND TRACKS IN TURKISH LANGUAGE FOR OVER 100 COPYRIGHTED U.S. FILMS TO TURKISH TV FIRM. IPECHI, FORMER TURKISH DISTRIBUTOR FOR AMERICAN FILM COMPANY DEPOSITED SOUND TRACKS WITH SUMER BANK AS COLLATERAL AND SUBSEQUENTLY WENT INTO BANKRUPTCY. JOHNSON BELIEVES IPECHI HAS ENGLISH VERSION PRINTS WHICH WOULD BE SHOWN WITH TURKISH SOUND TRACKS. JOHNSON ALSO BELIEVES THAT A BROTHER OF IPECHI, WHO IS PROGRAM DIRECTOR OF A TURKISH TV FIRM THAT MIGHT BE PURCHASING TURKISH SOUND TRACKS, ARE WORKING TOGETHER. MPEAA ASSERTS THAT TURKISH SOUND TRACKS ARE PROPERTY OF US FIRM AND SUMER BANK HAS NO AUTHORITY TO SELL SOUND TRACKS.

2. EMBASSY FYI: ALTHOUGH FILMS ARE COPYRIGHTED MATERIAL,
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PAGE 02 STATE 144341

U.S. DOES NOT HAVE COPYRIGHT RELATIONS WITH TURKEY UNDER

UNIVERSAL COPYRIGHT CONVENTION OR BILATERAL RELATIONS.
END FYI.

3. FREDERICK GRONICH, VICE PRESIDENT OF MPEAA ADVISED
DEPARTMENT JULY 3 THAT MPEAA ATTORNEY IN ANKARA HAS

REQUESTED EMBASSY ARRANGE MEETINGS ON THIS PROBLEM FOR
GRONICH JULY 15 WITH FOREIGN OFFICE AND MINISTRY OF EDU-
CATION. GRONICH PLANS ARRIVE ANKARA JULY 10 OR 11.
DEPARTMENT ALSO UNDERSTANDS THAT MPEAA ATTORNEY IN ANKARA
HAS ALREADY MADE PROTEST TO SUMER BANK AND TURKISH TV
FIRM INVOLVED IN BUYING SOUND TRACKS.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: (A) EMBASSY REPORT AS TO WHETHER
MEETING PARA 3 HAS BEEN ARRANGED AND WHETHER PROPOSED
SALE WOULD TAKE PLACE BEFORE MPEAA REPRESENTATIVES
ARRIVE; (B) EMBASSY SHOULD REQUEST GOT AT APPROPRIATE
LEVEL TO MAKE SURE NO IRREVOCABLE ACTION TAKEN ON SALE
UNTIL AFTER JULY 15 MEETING; (C) REPORT ANY AD ITIONAL
INFORMATION FOR ASSISTANCE MPEAA; AND (D) EMBASSY ASSIST
GRONICH AS APPROPRIATE. SISCO

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Message Attributes

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